

**ANTH 110 – MULTICULTURAL AMERICA**

Professor Gerber: gerbere@mail.montclair.edu

Office Hours (DI #144): Tu/Th 11:30-1

Spring 09

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**Readings:**

On Being Different (Kottak & Kozaitis) or "OBD"

Selections online at: <http://montclair.blackboard.edu> ("Bb") via your MSU web-mail account

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**Objectives**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate through writing and discussion that they have:

- Developed requisite critical thinking skills and the ability to consider multiple perspectives on an issue.
- Understood the benefit of an anthropological perspective (e.g., a global consciousness), in analyzing issues of ethnocentrism, racism, sexism, classism, and ableism.
- Expanded their knowledge about the cultural and demographic diversity in America

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**Grading will be based upon:**

6 quizzes (50%)

1 final (40%)

Class Participation (10%)

**There will be one quiz after/on each of the following topics (dates tba):**

- Culture, Globalization, & Identity; Language & Communication
- Ethnicity and Race
- Class/Socioeconomic Status
- Regionalism & Rural/Urban
- Religion
- Gender; Sexuality; Sexual Orientation
- Age & Generation; Health & Disability

*Note: The lowest quiz score will be dropped automatically.*

*(Each quiz constitutes 10% of your grade.)*

**The final is cumulative and is worth 40% of your grade.**

**It is scheduled during the regular exam slot, on: May 12<sup>h</sup> from 10:15am-12:15pm**

**Classroom Participation (10%) : assignments tba**

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## Course Schedule

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### I. Why an anthropological perspective? *Culture, Globalization, & Identity; Language & Communication*

#### **WEEK 1**

*OBD*: Chs 1-4

*Bb*: Dangerous Assumptions of American Culture

*Film*: *Horizons and Homelands: integrating cultural roots [NO.4024]*

*In-class exercise*: Statements about a Penny

#### **WEEK 3 - Tues**

*OBD*: Chapter 15

*Bb*: The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis: Worlds Shaped by Words

*Bb*: The Challenge of Cultural Relativism

*Bb*: Language Loss N.A. ("At a Loss For Words")

#### **WEEK 3 -Thurs**

*Bb*: Gunspeak: The Influence of America's Gun Culture on Everyday Communication

*Bb*: Racial Stereotyping in the English Language

*Bb*: Otherizing Obama

*Bb*: 2008 Elections & Race Language

FIRST QUIZ ON THE ABOVE MATERIAL: FEBRUARY 10TH

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### II. Ethnicity and Race

#### **For Feb 17th**

*Bb*: Mixed Blood

*Film*: *Head On (conclusion)*

#### **Feb 19**

*OBD*: Ch 5, 7

*Bb*: Are Asian-Americans Becoming White?

*Bb*: How did Jews become white folks?

#### **Feb 24<sup>th</sup>:**

*Bb*: IQ and Race ("None of the Above")

*Bb*: Perry/Shades of Whiteness

*Bb*: *Salsa&Ketchup.pdf*

*Bb*: *FirstAmericans.pdf*

*Bb*: *WhySittingTogthr.pdf*

*Film*: *Crash*

#### **Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: QUIZ #2**

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*III. Class/Socioeconomic Status  
Regionalism & Rural/Urban*

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup>:**

*OBD:* Chs 13-14

*Film: Holding ground: the Rebirth of Dudley Street [No. 3771]*

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

*Bb:* Economic Apartheid in America

*Bb:* Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Conditions in the U.S. Metropolitan Areas

**March 5<sup>th</sup>:**

*Bb:* Explorations of Class and Consciousness in the United States

*Bb:* A Tale of Two Classes

*Bb:* Office Work & the Crack Alternative

**March 10<sup>th</sup>: tba**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>: QUIZ #3**

*Film: It Was a Wonderful Life [or other tba]*

.....*Spring break*.....

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*IV. Religion*

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:**

*OBD:* Ch 6

*Film: Under One Sky*

**March 26<sup>th</sup>:**

*Bb:* How does it feel to be a Problem?

*Bb:* Women & Hamas

*Bb:* Metakinesis: How God Becomes Intimate in Contemporary U.S. Christianity

*Film: JESUS CAMP*

**March 31<sup>st</sup>: tba**

**APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>: QUIZ #4**

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*V. Gender; Sexuality; Sexual Orientation*

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

*OBD:* Ch 9

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Bb:* Mickey, Nicky, and Barbie: *Kinderculture* in America;  
*Bb:* The Child Trap  
*Bb:* ParentingUSNYrkr.pdf  
*Bb:* The Pope on Gender  
*Film:* *The Strength to Resist*

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

*OBD:* Ch 10  
*Bb:* Lessons from the Intersexed – Introduction & The Five Sexes, Revisited  
*Bb:* Lessons from the Intersexed – Medical Construction of Gender  
*Bb:* The Five Sexes, Revisited  
*Bb:* The Berdache Tradition  
*Bb:* Anti-gay Slurs

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> - QUIZ #5**

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*VI. Age & Generation; Health & Disability*

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**

*OBD:* Ch 11-12  
*Film:* *Growing Old in a New Age (Part 12, Societal and political aspects of aging); Aging in America-The Years Ahead; Number Our Days*

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Bb:* What is Disability?  
*Bb:* Experiencing Disability  
*In Class:* *Wheel a Mile In My Chair*  
*Film:* *Murderball*

**April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**April 30<sup>th</sup> - QUIZ #6**

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*Culture Change & Conclusions*

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**

*OBD:* Ch 17

**May 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Bb:* Influencing Public Policy  
Review

## **Class Policies:**

### Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. Lectures will include information that is not contained within the course readings. Therefore, multiple absences will likely lower your grade. In the event of absence, it is your responsibility to obtain -- from your classmates -- lecture notes or any documents that were disseminated. Visiting with the professor during office hours, especially in cases of multiple absences, is **strongly** encouraged.

### Discussion

Discussion is expected and will contribute to students' participation percentage. ***Differences in opinions are welcome***, but discussion must remain civil and based on intellectual ideas (as opposed to personal accusations/attacks).

### Students with Disabilities

Any student who is registered through the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) is eligible for accommodations based upon the impact of her/his disability. If you need such accommodations, please contact me privately and provide documentation from OSSD.

### Technology

No laptops are to be used in class without special permission from the instructor. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on vibrate! This is a large class and it is important to be courteous to your fellow classmates.

### University Writing Policy

I expect that you should be able to coherently express yourself. Thus, all submissions should be typed, edited and proofread, in addition to adhering to standards established by the *University Writing Policy*.

### Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, within the context of the *MSU University Regulations and Disciplinary Procedures* portion of the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Handbook, is defined as "intentionally or knowingly giving or receiving aid on any test, exam, or academic exercise...collusion or purchase [of] term papers, and plagiarism." A student found culpable for academic dishonesty will be subject to penalties.